

# CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL GUIDES

## TEACHERS, SECONDARY SCHOOL

CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL GUIDE - NUMBER 57  
2003

INTEREST AREA  
SOCIAL



### WHAT DOES A SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER DO?

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, usually known as High School Teachers, educate pre-teens and teenagers. Some specialize in single subjects, while others specialize in two or more related subjects such as English and drama, or physics and mathematics. They choose their own teaching methods, which vary from formal lecture to open discussions.

Secondary School Teachers perform the following tasks:

- Teach students using a variety of methods, such as lecture and visual demonstration.
- Assign lessons and correct homework.
- Develop and give tests.
- Prepare course outlines and goals according to school district guidelines or State and local requirements.

- Use computers, television, overhead projectors, and other materials to aid in making presentations.
- Analyze, record, and report student progress.
- Talk with students, parents, and school counselors. Discuss student progress or help student improve behavior and academic problems.
- Create and maintain a positive environment that promotes good behavior in the classroom.
- Take part in faculty and professional meetings, conferences, and Teacher training courses.
- Select, store, order, issue, and keep count of classroom equipment and supplies.

Secondary School Teachers generally use coursework and textbooks chosen by their school district. The material they teach also must meet California and federal government standards.

### WHAT SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT?

Important skills, knowledge, and abilities for Secondary School Teachers include:

- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- Instructing – Teaching others how to do something.
- Learning Strategies – Selecting and using training/instructional methods and procedures appropriate for the situation when learning or teaching new things.
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work-related documents.
- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

- Social Perceptiveness – Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- Mathematics – Using mathematics to solve problems.
- Written Comprehension – The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.
- Written Expression – The ability to communicate information and ideas in writing so others will understand.
- Speech Clarity – The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.
- Education and Training – Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- English Language – Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

### WHAT'S THE WORK ENVIRONMENT?

Working conditions vary from town to town and school to school. Some Teachers have the advantage of working in well-stocked, spacious, air-conditioned rooms, but others who work in poorer school districts do not enjoy these amenities.

Seeing students develop new skills and gain an appreciation of learning can be very rewarding; however, Teachers may experience stress if they have to deal with large classes, lack of volunteers or Teacher aides, a need for modern equipment, and/or heavy workloads. They can also feel frustrated when trying to teach unmotivated or disrespectful students. Violence occurs in some high schools; however, Teachers in all schools are being trained in conflict management to quickly resolve problems.

#### **Union Membership**

Most Teachers either belong to the California Teachers Association or the American Federation of Teachers. Teachers in each district usually

select one group to represent them in collective bargaining.

### WHAT'S THE CALIFORNIA JOB OUTLOOK?

The following information is from the occupational projections produced by the Employment Development Department (EDD) Labor Market Information Division (LMID):

Estimated number of workers in 2000:	92,300
Estimated number of workers in 2010:	120,800
Projected Growth 2000-2010:	30.9%
Est. openings due to separations by 2010:	32,400

*These figures do not include self-employment.*

Secondary School Teachers will grow faster than average compared with all occupations in California. Total job openings expected between 2000 and 2010, including replacement positions, amount to over 70,000.

#### **Trends**

Many school districts in California have voluntarily reduced class sizes in the subjects of English, math, language arts, and social studies in an effort to improve student scholastic performance. This is expected to increase the demand for these Teachers somewhat, although it is not yet known to what degree. Something else that may affect the number of Secondary School Teachers is the upcoming change in California college entrance requirements. Effective 2003, California State University (CSU) will require the same college preparation courses as the University of California (UC). This is expected to somewhat increase the need for High School Math and Foreign Language Teachers.

Many school districts are facing a critical shortage of Substitute Teachers. This shortage is due in part to a strong economy that offers better paying jobs for those with four-year degrees, as well as the increase of student population. Opportunities are excellent for those who do not want to work full-time in one location and who want extra income.

## WHAT DOES THE JOB PAY?

### *California Earnings*

#### Public Secondary School Teachers 2000-2001 Annual Wages

Beginning Range:	\$32,843	to	\$35,124
Mid-Range:	\$48,813	to	\$57,212
Highest Range:	\$59,603	to	\$71,349

Source: California Department of Education.

The Occupational Employment Survey of Employers by EDD/LMID for wages in 2002 shows that the average annual wage for Secondary School Teachers in California is \$53,104.

Salaries vary between school districts and generally are based on experience and college units completed. Some districts pay bonuses for advanced degrees or extra duty. Private schools pay somewhat less, but Teachers may be compensated with free or reduced tuition for their own children and greater independence in the classroom.

Substitute Teachers are paid on a daily rate and generally range from \$70 to \$125 per day. Due to the shortage of substitute Teachers, some employers are offering higher daily rates to Retired Teachers who substitute teach.

### *Hours*

The minimum teaching year is 175 days. A typical day includes five instruction periods and one preparation conference period. After school hours, Teachers attend meetings and workshops and sponsor or help supervise student activities. Teachers in most public schools work a minimum of six hours a day for a nine-month school year. However, some districts have year-round classes where Teachers work for a specified number of days throughout the year, followed by a period of time off. Most Teachers also take continuing education courses, plan lessons, and check homework on their own time.

### *Benefits*

Both public and private schools almost always provide medical, dental, vacation, sick leave, retirement, and insurance benefits.

## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE JOB?

### *Education and Training*

A Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes a person to teach specific subject(s) named on the credential in middle schools and high schools. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) establishes the requirements for a Preliminary and Professional Credential to teach in California public classrooms. The following requirements are for those who plan to prepare within California. Those trained outside California should contact the Commission Office.

### *Licensing and Certification*

#### *Preliminary Credential Requirements for Teachers prepared within California:*

- Bachelor's (or higher) degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Teacher Preparation Program to include:
  - Teaching methodology course work.
  - Child/human development and related subjects.
  - Student teaching component.
  - Passage of California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST).
  - U.S. Constitution education (course or exam).
  - English language skills including methods of teaching reading.
  - Knowledge of subject matter, demonstrated through Single Subject Assessment Test (SSAT) or proof of completion of subject matter program.
  - Character and identification clearance.

Once a preliminary credential has been earned, Secondary School Teachers have five years to complete the requirements for the Professional Clear credential.

*Professional Clear Credential for Teachers prepared within California:*

- Fifth year of study (30 semester units) and recommendation from a California institution of higher education with Commission-approved program.
- Health education course (including CPR certificate).
- Special education course.
- Computer education course.

California's 2001-2002 Budget Act currently allows the Commission to waive the \$55 application fees for first-time applicants of Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Special Education and Specialist Credentials. Other fees are listed at the Commission's Web site.

For those interested in substitute teaching, contact the Commission below for information on the Emergency 30-day Substitute Teaching Permit, Emergency Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers, or Emergency Career Substitute Teaching Permit, whose requirements vary. Specialized Teaching credentials such as Special Education or Bilingual/Cross Cultural Specialist require a basic credential along with additional course work.

### ***Continuing Education***

The Professional Clear Credential is valid for five years, and may be renewed upon completion of professional growth and service requirements. Teachers must take 150 hours of continuing education classes and teach at least one semester within five years to renew their credential.

### **HOW DO I FIND THE JOB?**

Most hiring takes place between June and October. Many new Teachers start as Substitute Teachers to gain classroom experience and district recognition. Direct application to school districts remains one of the most effective job search methods. Private schools are listed in the yellow pages under Schools-Academic. California job openings can be found at various online job-listing systems including CalJOBS<sup>SM</sup> at [www.caljobs.ca.gov](http://www.caljobs.ca.gov) or at America's Job Bank at [www.ajb.dni.us](http://www.ajb.dni.us).

For other occupational and wage information and a listing of the largest employers in any county, visit the Employment Development Department Labor Market Information Web page at [www.calmis.ca.gov](http://www.calmis.ca.gov). Find further job search assistance from your nearest Job Service office [www.edd.ca.gov/jsloc.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/jsloc.htm) or the closest One-Stop site listed on the California WorkNet site, [www.sjtcc.ca.gov/sjtccweb/one-stop](http://www.sjtcc.ca.gov/sjtccweb/one-stop).

### **WHERE CAN THIS JOB LEAD?**

Promotion for most Teachers consists of regular salary increases. Administrative positions require teaching experience, advanced study, and additional credentials.

### **OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
1900 Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 944270  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2700  
(916) 445-7254  
(888) 921-2682  
[www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)

California Teachers Association  
1705 Murchison Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
(650) 697-1400  
[www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org)

CalTeach  
(888) 225-8322  
[www.calteach.com](http://www.calteach.com)

California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
P.O. Box 944272  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2720  
(916) 319-0791  
[www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

Employment Projections by Occupation  
[www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/occproj.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/occproj.htm)

Employment and Wages by Occupation  
[www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occup\\$/OES\\$.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occup$/OES$.htm)

## RELATED OCCUPATIONAL GUIDES

Teachers, Elementary School	No. 10
Teachers, Special Education	No. 110
Instructors, Community College	No. 139
Teachers, Preschool	No. 275
Teachers, Trade and Technical	No. 404
Counselors, Rehabilitation and School	No. 429
Teachers of English as a Second Language	No. 556

## OCCUPATIONAL CODE REFERENCES

### **SOC** (*Standard Occupational Classification*)

Secondary School Teachers, Except Special  
and Vocational Education 25-2031

### **O\*NET** (*Occupational Information Network*)

Secondary School Teachers, Except Special  
and Vocational Education 25-2031.00

### **OES** (*Occupational Employment Statistics*)

Teachers, Secondary School 31308

### **DOT** (*Dictionary of Occupational Titles*)

Teacher, Secondary School 091.227-010